

## II. CANONICAL QUANTIZATION OF ELECTRODYNAMICS:

With the foregoing preparation, we are now in a position to apply the *classical analogy* or *canonical quantization* program to achieve the *second quantization* of the electromagnetic field.<sup>5</sup> As our starting point and for reference, we, once again, set forth the vacuum or microscopic Maxwell's equations in the time domain:

$$\nabla \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \quad [\text{II-1a}]$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \mu_0 \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \quad [\text{II-1b}]$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{\rho(\vec{r}, t)}{\epsilon_0} \quad [\text{II-1c}]$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = 0 \quad [\text{II-1d}]$$

The canonical formulation of classical electrodynamics (**Jeans' Theorem**) is most conveniently achieved in terms of the (magnetic) vector potential in the time domain -- *viz.*

$$\vec{B}(\vec{r}, t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-2a}]$$

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-2b}]$$

so that

$$\nabla^2 \left[ -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \right] - \nabla^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = \mu_0 \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-3a}]$$

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<sup>5</sup> In common usage, the process of treating the coordinates  $q_i$  and  $p_i$  as quantized variables is called *first quantization*. *Second quantization* is the process of quantizing *fields* -- say,  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$  -- which have an infinite number of degrees of freedom.

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$$\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \nabla \cdot \vec{A}_T(\vec{r}, t) = \nabla \cdot \vec{A}_L(\vec{r}, t) = 0 \quad [\text{II-3b}]$$

In QED (Quantum Electrodynamics) it is *convenient and traditional* to make use of the **Coulomb gauge** -- *i.e.*  $\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$  -- so that

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_0 \vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-4a}]$$

$$\vec{A}_L(\vec{r}, t) = -\nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t) \quad [\text{II-4b}]$$

where  $\vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) - \vec{J}_L(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) - \nabla \phi(\vec{r}, t)$  is the so called **transverse** current density. Since  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$  is completely determined by the transverse current density in the Coulomb gauge, electromagnetic problems become in a sense separable -- *i.e.*

### The *transverse* field problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= 0 \\ \nabla \times \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= -\mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \times \vec{H}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= \vec{J}_T(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-5a}]$$

### The *longitudinal* field problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \vec{E}_L(\vec{r}, t) &= \rho(\vec{r}, t) / \epsilon_0 \\ \vec{J}_L(\vec{r}, t) &= -\epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \vec{E}_L(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-5b}]$$

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We turn now explicitly to a treatment of the *free electromagnetic field* -- formally the case of  $\vec{\mathbf{J}}_{\text{T}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = 0$  wherein

$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t)}{\partial t^2} = 0 \quad [\text{II-6}]$$

We look for solutions in the form

$$\vec{\mathbf{A}}(\vec{\mathbf{r}}, t) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{0}} \sum_s \left\{ u_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + c.c. \right\} \quad [\text{II-7}]$$

Substituting into Equation [ II-6 ] we obtain

$$\sum_s \left\{ u_s(t) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) \left[ \nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}})}{\partial t^2} \right] + c.c. \right\} = 0 \quad [\text{II-8}]$$

Thus we may apply **separation of variables** techniques and the original problem is divided in to **two new and distinct** problems -- viz. solutions of the following set of equations:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) + \frac{\omega_s^2}{c^2} \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s(\vec{\mathbf{r}}) = 0 \quad [\text{II-9}]$$

$$\ddot{u}_s(t) + \omega_s^2 u_s(t) = 0 \quad [\text{II-10}]$$

where the  $\omega_s$ 's are **separation constants**. The spatial equations allow us to treat the boundary value problem of the cavity or defining field space in whatever detail that might seem appropriate in a particular case.<sup>6</sup> But the *bottom line* is that the boundary condition

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<sup>6</sup> The  $\vec{\mathbf{u}}_i(\vec{\mathbf{r}})$ 's do not form a true complete set of solutions since no longitudinal vector field can be expanded in terms of such *divergentless* functions.

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taken together with the characteristics of the normal modes or eigenfunctions determine the  $\omega_s$ 's which may, in turn, be identified as the eigenfrequencies of the normal modes.

Thus, we may now write

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= -\frac{1}{t} \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \left\{ \dot{\vec{u}}_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + c.c. \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \left\{ i \omega_s \vec{u}_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + c.c. \right\} \quad [ \text{II-11} ]\end{aligned}$$

and 
$$\vec{H}_T(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{\mu_0} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{c}{2\sqrt{\mu_0}} \left\{ \dot{\vec{u}}_s(t) \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + c.c. \right\}. \quad [ \text{II-12} ]$$

The crucial step required in establishing Jeans' Theorem is the expansion of the instantaneous value of the stored electromagnetic energy in terms of the cavity modes -- viz.

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2V} \int_V \left[ \epsilon_0 |\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)|^2 + \mu_0 |\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)|^2 \right] dV \quad [ \text{II-13a} ]$$

which, in light of Equations [ II-11 ] and [ II-12 ], becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{4V} \sum_{s,s} \left[ \omega_s \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{u}_s^* + c^2 \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right] \cos(\omega_s t) \cos(\omega_s t) dV \quad [ \text{II-13b} ]$$

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To proceed we need the value of the integral  $\int_{\text{cavity}} \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right) dV$ . Using a well

known vector identity,<sup>7</sup> we obtain

$$\int \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right) dV = \int \vec{u}_s \times \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right) d\vec{S} + \int \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{r} \times \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right) dV \quad [\text{II-14a}]$$

By boundary value arguments we may easily show that the first term on the RHS of this equation vanishes and by using an even more familiar (famous) vector identity<sup>8</sup> for a divergenceless field, we obtain

$$\int \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s - \vec{r} \times \vec{u}_s^* \right) dV = - \int \vec{u}_s \cdot \nabla \left( \vec{r} \cdot \vec{u}_s^* \right) dV = \frac{2}{c^2} \int \vec{u}_s \cdot \vec{u}_s^* dV \quad [\text{II-14b}]$$

Therefore, Equation [II-13b] becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{4V} \int_{s,s} \left[ \vec{u}_s(t) \cdot \vec{u}_s^*(t) \right] dV \quad [\text{II-15}]$$

From Equation [II-14b] we may also write

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<sup>7</sup> Namely, that  $\vec{r} \cdot \left( \vec{X} \times \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) = \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{X} \right) \cdot \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) - \vec{X} \cdot \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right)$

<sup>8</sup> Namely, that

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \vec{X} \times \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) \right] &= \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{X} \right) \cdot \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) - \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r} \times \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) \\ &= \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{X} \right) \cdot \left( \vec{r} \times \vec{Y} \right) - \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r} \left( \vec{r} \cdot \vec{Y} \right) + \vec{X} \cdot \vec{r}^2 \vec{Y} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\vec{\nabla} \times \left[ \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* - \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \times \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \right] dV = \frac{1}{c^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \right) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* dV \quad \text{II-16a ]}$$

and, again, by boundary value arguments we may easily show that the resultant surface integral on the left vanishes,

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 \right) \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* dV = 0 \quad \text{[ II-16b ]}$$

Therefore, we may take

$$\left[ \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \right] dV = \int_{ss'} \quad \text{[ II-17 ]}$$

so that Equation [ II-15 ] becomes

$$\langle W(t) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int_s \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s \cdot \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* \quad \text{[ II-18 ]}$$

which when compared to Equation [ I-6 ]<sup>9</sup> **is effectively the content of Jean's Theorem** with

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s &= a = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} [ q + i p/m ] \\ \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} \vec{\mathbf{u}}_s^* &= a^\dagger = \sqrt{\frac{m}{2}} [ q - i p/m ] \end{aligned} \quad \text{[ II-19 ]}$$

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<sup>9</sup> That is  $\mathcal{H} = a^\dagger a$

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To accomplish the *canonical quantization* program, field variables are expressed as field operators by making the identification

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left[ q + i p / m \right] &= \sqrt{\hbar} a \\ \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2}} \left[ q - i p / m \right] &= \sqrt{\hbar} a^\dagger\end{aligned}\quad [\text{II-20}]$$

which leads to the following set of field operators:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{H} &= \sum_s \frac{\hbar \omega_s}{2} a_s a_s^\dagger + a_s^\dagger a_s \\ \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) &= \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2 \epsilon_0 V}} a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s^* \\ \vec{E}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2 \epsilon_0 V}} a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) - a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s^* \\ \vec{H}_T(\vec{r}, t) &= c \sum_s \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2 \mu_0 V}} a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s^*\end{aligned}\quad [\text{II-21}]$$

### The Plane Wave Expansion of the Electromagnetic Field Hamiltonian:

To be definite, we may write an explicit plane wave representation for the field as

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2 \epsilon_0 V}} \hat{e}_i a_s \exp \left[ i \left( \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - \omega_s t \right) \right] + a_s^\dagger \exp \left[ -i \left( \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - \omega_s t \right) \right] \quad [\text{II-22a}]$$

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or<sup>10</sup>

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} \left[ a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) + a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s^*(\vec{r}) \right] \quad [\text{II-22b}]$$

where

$$\vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \hat{e}_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r}] \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{u}_s^*(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V}} \hat{e}_s^* \exp[-i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r}] \quad [\text{II-23a}]$$

$$a_s(t) = a_s(0) \exp[-i \omega_s t] \quad \text{and} \quad a_s^\dagger(t) = a_s^\dagger(0) \exp[+i \omega_s t] \quad [\text{II-23b}]$$

Of course,  $k_s = |\vec{k}_s| = \omega_s/c$  in all of these expansions. Further the electric field expansion is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) &= i \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} \left[ a_s(t) \vec{u}_s(\vec{r}) - a_s^\dagger(t) \vec{u}_s^*(\vec{r}) \right] \\ &= i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s \mathcal{E}_s \left[ a_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] - a_s^\dagger \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] \right] \end{aligned} \quad [\text{II-24a}]$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_s = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}}$  and the magnetic field expansion by

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{i}{c \mu_0} \sum_{s=1}^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2\epsilon_0 V}} \left[ a_s(t) [\hat{k}_s \times \vec{u}_s(\vec{r})] - a_s^\dagger(t) [\hat{k}_s \times \vec{u}_s^*(\vec{r})] \right] \quad [\text{II-24b}]$$

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<sup>10</sup> This expansion is often written as  $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) + \vec{E}^{(-)}(\vec{r}, t)$  where

$$\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) = i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s \mathcal{E}_s a_s \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t] \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{E}^{(-)}(\vec{r}, t) = -i \sum_{s=1}^2 \hat{e}_s^* \mathcal{E}_s a_s^\dagger \exp[i \vec{k}_s \cdot \vec{r} - i \omega_s t]$$



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In light of Equations [ II-18 ] and [ II-21 ], the Hamiltonian of the radiation field is

$$\mathcal{H}_{rad} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \left[ a_{\{l\}} a_{\{l\}}^{\dagger} + a_{\{l\}}^{\dagger} a_{\{l\}} \right] = \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \left\{ \mathcal{N}_{\{l\}} + 1/2 \right\} \quad \text{[ II-25 ]}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} & \quad \quad \quad + \quad + \quad + \\ & \quad \quad \quad l_x = - \quad l_y = - \quad l_z = - \\ \vec{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} &= \frac{2}{L} \left[ l_x \hat{\mathbf{x}} + l_y \hat{\mathbf{y}} + l_z \hat{\mathbf{z}} \right] \quad \text{[ II-26 ]} \\ & \quad \quad \quad c \left| \vec{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \right| \end{aligned}$$

The electromagnetic momentum (Poynting vector divided by  $c^2$ ) is given classical by

$$\vec{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{1}{c^2} \int_{\text{cavity}} \vec{\mathbf{E}} \times \vec{\mathbf{H}} dV \quad \text{[ II-27a ]}$$

and in terms of the second quantization operators it becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\mathcal{M}} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \vec{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \left[ a_{\{l\}} a_{\{l\}}^{\dagger} + a_{\{l\}}^{\dagger} a_{\{l\}} \right] \quad \text{[ II-27b ]} \\ &= \sum_{\{l\}} \hbar \vec{\mathbf{k}}_{\{l\}} \mathcal{N}_{\{l\}} \end{aligned}$$

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Thus, the Fock or number states are eigenstates of both the energy and the momentum of the field.